

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 EURE-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /068 W
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P R 101122Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8757

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

EUCOM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ANKARA 2863

EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: PARLIAMENT PREPARES FOR CONFIDENCE VOTE

REF: ANKARA 2837

SUMMARY: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMPLETED DEBATES ON NATIONALIST
FRONT PROGRAM AT 2:00 A.M. APRIL 10 AND SCHEDULED VOTE OF
CONFIDENCE FOR APRIL 12. FURTHER DEFECTION FROM
NATIONALIST FRONT
SUGGESTS DEMIREL NOW HAS FIFTY-FIFTY CHANCE OF WINNING VOTE.
END SUMMARY.

1. AT A SESSION WHICH LASTED UNTIL THE EARLY HOURS MORNING APRIL
10, THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMPLETED DEBATE (REPORTED SEPTTEL) ON
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THE NATIONALIST FRONT PROGRAM AND SCHEDULED THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

FOR 3:00 P.M. APRIL 12. WHILE THE DEBATE WAS TAKING PLACE, JUSTICE PARTY (JP) DEPUTY MEHMET EMIN TURGUTALP, ALLEGEDLY TAKING OFFENSE AT REMARKS MADE BY FAR RIGHT NATIONALIST ACTION PARTY (NAP) LEADER TURKES, TRANSFERRED FROM THE JP TO THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP); HOWEVER, HE CHOSE TO RETURN TO THE JP APRIL 10. AT SAME TIME SIIRT DEPUTY NEBIL OKTAY RESIGNED FROM THE REPUBLICAN RELIANCE PARTY (RR) TO OPPOSE THE NATIONALIST FRONT.

2. COMMENT: IN TERMS OF THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, THESE LATEST WANGS LEAVE DEMIREL'S NATIONALIST FRONT WITH A MAXIMUM OF 224 VOTES AGAINST 222 FOR THE RPP-LED OPPOSITION. IF THE RPP SPEAKER RESIGNS, AS DISCUSSED IN REFTTEL, THE MAXIMUM FIGURES COULD BE 223 FOR EACH SIDE -- A LOSS FOR DEMIREL.

3. THE MAXIMUM FIGURES INCLUDE WAVERERS ON BOTH SIDES. THE PERIOD BEFORE THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IS TAKEN WILL BE ONE OF FURTHER INTENSIVE EFFORTS BY THE NATIONALIST FRONT AND THE OPPOSITION TO LURE ADDITIONAL HESITANT MEMBERS FROM ONE SIDE TO THE OTHER. A PROMINENT RPP PARTY ASSEMBLY MEMBER TOLD US APRIL 9 THE RPP IS HOPEFUL THAT ITS PROPOSAL TO CONSIDER FORMING A "LASTING" GOVERNMENT MAY ENCOURAGE ADDITIONAL CROSSOVERS TO THE RPP, PRIMARILY FROM THE REPUBLICAN RELIANCE (RR) AND DEMOCRATIC PARTIES (DP). WE HAVE INDICATIONS THAT THE JP IS LESS CERTAIN OF ITS CHANCES THAN DEMIREL'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS SUGGEST. HOWEVER, JP SUPPORTERS STILL BELIEVE DEMIREL WILL WIN, BASING THEIR BELIEF PRIMARILY ON EXPECTED ABSTENTIONS BY DP MEMBERS. IN VIEW OF THE POTENTIAL FOR SUDDEN LAST-MINUTE SHIFTS IN EITHER DIRECTION (AS ILLUSTRATED BY THE EXAMPLE IN PARA 1 ABOVE), COMBINED WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF INVOLUNTARY ABSENCES, THE MOST ONE CAN SAY AT THIS TIME IS THAT DEMIREL HAS A FIFTY-FIFTY CHANCE OF WINNING THE VOTE.

MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LEADERS, POLITICAL PARTIES, NATIONAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ANKARA02863
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750125-0197
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750464/aaaacgyq.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ANKARA 2837
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <07 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PARLIAMENT PREPARES FOR CONFIDENCE VOTE
TAGS: PINT, TU, (DEMIREL, SULEYMAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006